REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended as shown above to correct a clerical error, as would be understood by a person of ordinary skill in the art within the context of the amended paragraph at page 25, referring to pH values. The amendment to the specification is further supported within the broader context in the specification at page 25, lines 19 and 22.

Claim 7 has been amended as shown above by essentially incorporating the subject matter of claim 8. Claim 8 has accordingly been cancelled.

Claims 21 and 22 have been added as supported in the present specification including at page 25, lines 18-29.

No new matter has been added.

Claims 7, 9-12 and 17-22 remain in this application. Claim 7 has been amended. Claims 1-6 and 13-16 have been withdrawn. Claim 8 has been cancelled.

The applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 7, 9 and 17-20 under 35 USC 102(b) in view of Sakaki et al. This reference does not anticipate the presently claimed invention or make it obvious.

The applicants further traverse the rejection of claims 8 and 10-12 under 35 USC 103(a) in view of Sakaki et al. taken with Kasahara et al. These references do not make the presently claimed invention to be obvious.

With respect to the above rejection under Section 102(b), the applicants submit that amended claim 7 is not where disclosed or suggested by the reference of Sakaki.

Furthermore, with respect to the above rejection under Section 103(a), the applicants submit that the teachings of Kasahara do not remedy the deficiencies of Sakaki.

One of the objects of the presently claimed invention is to prevent the change in color hue after printing which is caused by the difference in pH between the surface of the outermost ink-receptive layer and the surface(s) of inner ink-receptive layer(s), when printing is carried out on the ink-jet recording material by a printer, in which the ink-jet recording material is stored in a packaged form in a box (please see page 2, line 17 to page 3, line 16 of the present specification).

To solve the above-mentioned problems, one of the most important features of the presently claimed invention resides in using an ink-receptive layer having a surface pH of 3 to 6. By employing an ink-jet recording material having such an ink-receptive layer, excellent results are obtained, as shown in Example 4 disclosed on pages 24 and 25 of the present specification. As described in Example 4 of the specification, those samples having a surface pH of an ink-receptive layer of 3 to 6 of the samples of the presently claimed invention showed excellent properties as described at page 25, lines 18 to 25 of the present specification. Thus, in an ink-jet recording material using an ink-receptive layer having a surface pH of 2.5 or 6.5, no good result can be obtained in color reproducibility of an original image, water resistance or quality of coated surface, as disclosed on page 25, lines 18 to 25 of the present specification.

In Sakaki et al., there is no disclosure or suggestion of a surface pH of an ink-receptive layer. A recording sheet disclosed in Sakaki is manufactured by coating a coating solution on at least one surface of a base member, drying the coated coating solution to form a sheet member with a covering layer, cutting the sheet member into

cut sheets having a desired size, and enclosing and sealing at least one of the cut sheets in a packaging material that is impermeable to moisture while the at least one of the cut sheets is maintained in a flat state, wherein at least the drying step, the cutting step, and the enclosing and sealing step are effected in an atmosphere in which humidity does not exceed 50% RH (see column 2, lines 58-67 of the reference). In Sakaki, a recording sheet is packaged in a packaging material that is impermeable to moisture so that the recording sheet is not contacted with an outer atmosphere whereby curl of the recording sheet caused by absorption of moisture is prevented. Accordingly, the object of Sakaki is quite different from that of the present invention and thus, the presently claimed invention is thus significantly different from Sakaki.

Kasahara et al. discloses that the pH of an ink-holding layer ranges from 2 to 8 (see column 3, lines 28-29 of the reference). This is a description of a prior art JP 63-224988 A and an object of the prior art is to improve water resistance and moisture resistance of a dye as mentioned at column 3, lines 5-7 of the same. Also, the ink-jet recording paper described in Kasahara is not used in a form of a packaged state. Thus, in Kasahara, the problem of causing change in color hue at the time of printing which is caused by the difference of a surface pH of the ink-receptive layer and a surface pH of a protective film during storage of an ink-jet recording material in a packaged state is never considered.

According, the applicants submit that the problem to be solved by the present invention can be solved by combining the teachings of Sakaki et al. and Kasahara et al. and accordingly, the effect of the present invention can not be expected there from.

Moreover, the applicants submit that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not consider the teachings of Kasahara when contemplating the teachings of Sakaki. The features of the presently claimed invention are not disclosed or suggested, nor is any motivation present, to result in the presently claimed invention by combining the teachings of Kasahara with the primary reference of Sakaki.

Thus, the applicants assert that the combination of Kasahara with Sakaki is not proper and should be withdrawn.

Even if the teachings of Kasahara are considered with the teachings of Sakaki, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not find the presently claimed invention to be obvious for the several reasons discussed above.

The presently claimed invention is fully allowable under both Section 102(b) and Section 103(a) in view of the cited art.

In view of the above, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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